

[20 April, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

100 per cent on the growth of domestic pharmaceutical companies has been considered in this context?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) to (c) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy is evolved on a continuous basis keeping in mind the interest of both consumers and producers. As per the extant policy FDI upto 74% is permitted through automatic route in the case of bulk drugs, their intermediates and formulations (except those produced by the use of recombinant DNA technology). 100% FDI in case of bulk drugs, their intermediates and formulations is considered by the Government on a case by case basis.

Technique For Production of Low Cost Fertilizers

† 3839. DR. D. MASTHAN:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have found the technique to be used in production of fertilizers in the world with minimum production cost thereof;

(b) if so, the name of this technique and the countries where it is being used for production; and

(c) whether Government have explored the possibility of its use in India; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) to (c) While there are a number of proven technologies world wide for manufacture of fertilizers, their cost effectiveness depends on several factors including type and quality of input used in the process. Fertilizer companies are free to choose the latest and most cost effective technology available globally for setting up new plants as well as for revamp/

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

modernisation of existing plants. Some of the technologies for manufacture of urea, the only controlled fertilizer, that Indian Plants have adopted are:

- (i) TEC Process
- (ii) CO₂ Stripping Process
- (iii) Ammonia Stripping Process.

Abolition of Drug Price Control Order

3840. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

SHRI S. AGNIRAJ:

SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:

PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGER:

SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to abolish DPCO, if so, by when and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the news report appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 5th March, 2001 under the caption, "Decontrolling of drugs may increase prices of medicines", if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this would create a drastic increase in price of essential life saving drugs; and

(d) what steps are being taken to keep the prices of drugs under proper check so as to make them available within the reach of common man?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) The Drugs Prices Control Orders are issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to implement the Policy in so far as price controls are concerned. No decision has been taken to do away with the price control regime over drugs and pharmaceuticals. Therefore, the question of abolishing the DPCO does not arise.

(b) Yes, Sir.